



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

Date: February 11, 2016

Prepared by: [REDACTED]

Case #: OI-CH-2015-ADM-0128

Cross Reference #:

TITLE: [REDACTED]

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
[REDACTED]	Chicago, IL	

VIOLATION(s): 5 USC § 2302 Prohibited Personnel Practices.

ALLEGATION(s): On September 10, 2015, Special Agent [REDACTED], Office of Investigations (OI), Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Chicago, IL Field Office, received a hotline complaint #2015-354. The complaint initiated from the House of Representatives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The letter stated, "We request that you investigate whether Region 5 managers appropriately handled allegations of sexual harassment, and whether managers retaliated against employees who raised concerns."

FINDINGS: On [REDACTED] 2015, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED], OI OIG EPA Chicago Field Office, spoke to [REDACTED] EPA Region [REDACTED] delineated [REDACTED] knowledge of the sexual harassment that occurred in EPA Region 5 in 2011 and the response of management to this sexual harassment. [REDACTED] stated management ignored prior reports of sexual harassment and minimized the reported cases of sexual harassment in the [REDACTED]

On [REDACTED] 2015, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED] EPA Region [REDACTED] became aware of the sexual harassment occurring in [REDACTED] in March 2011, [REDACTED] EPA Region [REDACTED] details of the sexual harassment charges and management's inaction to these allegations. Shortly after this investigation, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The EPA [REDACTED]

On [REDACTED] 2015, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that when the sexual harassment allegations in [REDACTED] in March 2011, [REDACTED] investigation uncovered an on-going sexual harassment issue and [REDACTED] not handling it correctly. When [REDACTED] concerns, [REDACTED]

On [REDACTED] 2015, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED] EPA Region 5. [REDACTED] was a witness of the sexual harassment which occurred in [REDACTED]

On [REDACTED] 2015, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] EPA Region 5. [REDACTED] was also a witness to the sexual harassment which occurred in [REDACTED]

On [REDACTED], 2015, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED], OI OIG, EPA, Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), spoke to [REDACTED], Office [REDACTED], EPA Region [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] discussed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] knowledge of any (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED] problems. [REDACTED] information was not related to this case. This information was significant enough to necessitate opening a new case on the matter. The case is titled: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (b) (7)(A) [REDACTED] EPA Region [REDACTED] et al” with a case number of OI-HQ-2016-ADM-0028.

On December 1, 2015, a meeting was conducted in Washington DC, which involved the following people:

- Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), OIG EPA
- Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, OI OIG EPA
- Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit (AIGA), Office of Audit, OIG EPA
- Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General OIG EPA
- [REDACTED], Special Agent in Charge (SAC), OI OIG EPA OPR
- [REDACTED], Special Agent, OI OIG EPA OPR (via telephone)
- [REDACTED], Special Agent, Chicago, IL OI OIG EPA (via telephone)

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the future plans of the case. [REDACTED] put forth a proposal (see attachment) to DIG Sheehan that the case may be more successfully addressed by the Office of Audit. DIG Sheehan agreed and made the decision to turn the case over to the Office of Audit. [REDACTED] completed a verbal briefing to AIGA Christensen and further action on the matter will be handled by the Office of Audit.

On [REDACTED] 2015, SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] spoke to [REDACTED], EPA Region [REDACTED] stated what [REDACTED] knew regarding the sexual harassment allegations in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also spoke of [REDACTED]

RESTRICTED INFORMATION

(b) (7)(A) necessitate a (b) (7)(A) complaint. SA
opened a complaint titled: (b) (7)(A)
numbered COMP-2016-6.

DISPOSITION: This case is transferred over to the Office of Audit which will handle all further matters on this case.